

**Testimony for the Committee on Energy and Technology**

***In Support of***  
**H.B. No. 7156 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY DERIVED  
FROM OFFSHORE WIND**

***and In Support of***  
**S.B. No. 875 AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT'S OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY  
PORTFOLIO**

Submitted by Susan Miller  
February 26, 2019

Dear Co-Chairs Needleman and Arconti, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of H.B. No. 7156, An Act Concerning the Procurement Of Energy Derived From Offshore Wind and S.B. No. 875 An Act Expanding Connecticut's Offshore Wind Energy Portfolio.

I wholeheartedly support Connecticut's expansion into offshore wind and see it as absolutely necessary to address climate change in our state. In addition,

- Governor Lamont has called for an even more aggressive timetable that envisions Connecticut becoming carbon neutral and securing 100% of its power from renewable sources by 2050. Offshore wind will play an essential role in making that vision a reality.
- I support the Committee's call for up to 2000 MW of offshore wind, but the bill should be amended to make that a mandate requiring DEEP to procure at least 2000 MW by 2030. MA and NY have solid commitments like that, and if we don't send a strong message to the industry that Connecticut wants to be a regional hub for offshore wind staging and supply chain activities then those jobs will go elsewhere.
- I support both bills' labor provisions that will ensure the jobs created by these investments are high-quality jobs with health and safety protections.
- I am concerned that neither bill incorporates any environmental protections. At a minimum, the legislation should require the DEEP Commissioner to consider whether submitted proposals "contain explicit descriptions of the best management practices to be employed, as informed by the latest science at the time of a proposal, to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to wildlife, natural resources, ecosystems, and traditional or existing water dependent uses."

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony on these bills.

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